

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF BLANDFORD
(Old White Church)
North Street
Blandford
Hampden County
Massachusetts

HABS NO. MA-1237

HABS
MASS,
7-BLAN,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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MASS,
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Hampden	TOWN OR VICINITY Blandford
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BLANDFORD		HABS NO. MA-1237
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Old White Church		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) North Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1822 (National Register nomination)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Isaac Damon	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) A well preserved example of Federal style New England Meetinghouse. It is a distinctive example of the work of Isaac Damon, a prominent Federal period architect/builder who worked primarily in the Connecticut River Valley. A center of the community, it was used for town meetings as well as church services.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Federal		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Clapboard, the original is retained on the east & west sides, the facade is covered with flush boards (original). Granite block foundation.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 2 story rectangular structure, 5 bays by 5 bays with a 3 bays wide pedimented porch to the center of the facade, 3 staged steeple		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Tripartite steeple, characteristic of Damon's work, consisting of square base with recessed blind arches, topped by 2 octagonal stages, a small domed cap and a weather vane; pedimented, pilastered front with arched doorways.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Vestibule runs entire width of south end. Sanctuary takes up most of the interior with platform & pulpit at north end, galleries line the east & west sides on second floor.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES renovated but not substantially altered in 1866 (mostly interior changes).		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition; used as a church		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This is the least altering of Damon's meetinghouses, 5 (out of at least 13) of which remain. Damon is best known for his meetinghouses but also built civic buildings and residences.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register nomination, prepared by Mary Kate Sampson & Lee Hamburg, Consultants, Massachusetts Historical Commission, July 1985/		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Lavoie, Historian, HABS/HAER		DATE February 1989